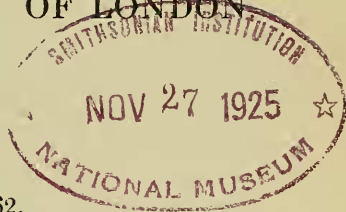


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON



January 14, 1862.

Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

Dr. P. L. Sclater exhibited, on behalf of Mr. E. Blyth, Corr. Memb., a tracing of the outline of a skull of the adult male *Rhinoceros sumatranus*, from a specimen in the possession of Lieut.-Col. Fytch, Commander of the Martaban and Tenasserim provinces, Maulmein. The animal had been killed in the province of Tavoy, near the Siamese frontier. The outline of the skull was reduced in the drawing to one-fourth of the original. Mr. Blyth stated that another example, sent to England by Col. Fytch, had the anterior horn more curved and about 3 inches longer, and that this was the horn he was inclined to believe *Rhinoceros crossii* of Dr. Gray (P. Z. S. 1854, p. 250) had been founded upon.

Extracts were read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Dr. George Bennett, F.Z.S., dated Sydney, Nov. 20th, 1861, referring to the proposed establishment of a Society of Acclimatisation at Sydney, and regretting the failure of his attempt to keep living in captivity specimens of the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) destined for the Society. Dr. Bennett also stated that the Aviary in the Botanic Gardens at Sydney then contained a pair of the Mooruk (*Casuaris bennettii*), Albatrosses of two species (*Diomedea exulans* and *D. melanophrys*), and a Regent-bird (*Sericulus aureus*) in full plumage.

Dr. A. Günther called the attention of the Society to the fact that a
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female Python, in the Reptile-house in the Society's Gardens (*Python sebae*), had on the previous day deposited a large number of eggs, and had commenced to sit upon them, guarding them with great care. A sketch by Mr. Wolf was exhibited, illustrative of the Python as she appeared in this position.

Dr. Cobbold exhibited a preparation of the remarkable pouched Peyerian gland from the intestine of the young Giraffe which had recently died in the Society's Gardens.

Mr. Alfred Newton exhibited a nest containing seventeen hatched-out eggs of *Ortyx virginianus*, which had been sent to him from New York by Mr. George N. Lawrence, C.M.Z.S., and read from a letter of that gentleman's the following extract:—

"Of course eggs of this species are abundant enough; but this is the only nest that ever came under my own observation. It was obtained in the garden of a place occupied by me during the summer, near the sea-shore at Rockaway, Long Island.

"The eggs, as you will notice, are chipped round at the largest diameter, with almost mathematical exactness, leaving a part of the shell adhering to one side. The fact of this being left to act as a hinge strikes me as peculiar, but it may not be unusual in birds of this family."

Mr. Newton stated that the very curious and regular mode in which the shells of these specimens had been almost entirely, yet not quite, severed was a circumstance he had never before observed in the eggs of any other species. In the European wild *Gallinæ*, especially in *Perdix cinerea*, the fracture of the shell, caused by the escape of the young birds, generally takes place nearer the middle of the axis major, and, so far as he knew, was always complete; that is, there was no "hinge" left joining the two parts. Indeed, in partridges' eggs which have been hatched out, the two portions of the shell were most frequently found lying the one encased in the other. He forbore offering any suggestions as to the manner in which the very curious appearance in the eggs exhibited had been produced, but considered it quite worthy the attention of naturalists.

The following papers were read:—

1. DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW SPECIES OF SHELLS BELONGING TO THE FAMILY OF CYCLADES. BY TEMPLE PRIME, OF NEW YORK.

1. *BATISSA SPHÆRICULA*, Prime.

Cyrena violacea, Lam., var. *Javanica*, Mousson, Moll. Java, 88, pl. 15. f. 1, 1849.

B. testa subrotunda, æquilaterali, depressiuscula, epidermide atro-virescente vestita, antice sulcis transversis remotis ornata, intus albo-violacea; latere antico dilatato, postico obtuso; lamina cardinali angusta; dentibus primariis inæqualibus, subcanali-